

US005958057A

United States Patent [19] Gianni

[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

[54]	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
	POWERING-ON A COMPUTER-BASED
	SYSTEM VIA A NETWORK INTERFACE

[75] Inventor: Robert R. Gianni, San Jose, Calif.

[73] Assignee: Sun Microsystems, Inc., Mountain View, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: 09/152,634

[22] Filed: Sep. 14, 1998

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of application No. 08/499,085, Jul. 6, 1995, Pat. No. 5,809,313.

[51]	Int. Cl	G06F 1/26
[52]	U.S. Cl	
[58]	Field of Search	
		205750

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,635,195	1/1987	Jeppesen, II et al	395/750
4,663,539	5/1987	Sharp et al	395/750
4,663,563	5/1987	Sharp et al	. 307/38
4,677,566	6/1987	Whittaker et al	395/750
4,747,041	5/1988	Engel et al	395/750
5,012,233	4/1991	Paulsen, Jr	395/750

[11] Patent Number:

5,958,057

[45] Date of Patent:

Sep. 28, 1999

5,121,500	6/1992	Arlington et al	395/750
5,121,506	6/1992	Arlington et al	395/750
5,381,414	1/1995	Gibson	395/750
5,396,636	3/1995	Gallagher et al	395/750
5,535,400	7/1996	Belmont	395/750

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

92302925	4/1992	European Pat. Off
92305570	6/1992	European Pat. Off
93304075	5/1993	European Pat. Off.

Primary Examiner—Ayaz R. Sheikh Assistant Examiner—David Wiley Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Flehr Hohbach Test Albritton & Herbert LLP

[57] ABSTRACT

A network interface card in a networked client computer includes a network interface circuit that decodes and then compares incoming network packet addresses to known address bit patterns, the decoding and comparing circuitry being powered at all times. Receipt and recognition of certain addresses means the client computer must be powered-on, even if manually switched OFF. When such a server-transmitted address is recognized, a power-on signal is issued to a power control unit that causes full operating power to be coupled to the client computer. In this fashion, a server can broadcast power-on signals to a plurality of networked client computers or workstations.

20 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

